

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

L-03 IO-14 ACDA-19 SCI-06 SCEM-02 AEC-11 SAJ-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 DRC-01 /166 W

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R 031610Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5800

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSIN USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MCAF, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING

1. IN ACCEPTING THE CREDENTIALS OF THE NEW AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR ON JANUARY 2, FRENCH PRESIDENT POMPIDOU FIRMLY RESTATED FRENCH INTENTON TO CONTINUE NUCLEAR TESTING. " IT IS A FACT," POMPIDOU SAID, "THAT OUR RELATIONS -- WHICH HAVE BEEN FRIENDLY AND TRUSTING FOR A LONG TIME -- HAVE BEEN ALTERED TO THE POINT OF

THWARTING THE POSSIBILITIES OF COOPERATION THAT UNTIL RECENTLY WERE DEVELOPING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT DEPLORE THAT THINGS HAVE REACHED THIS POINT OF DIFFERENCE OVER THE PURSUIT OF TESTS THAT FRANCE CONSIDERS VITAL FOR ITS DEFENSE, THAT ARE JURIDICALLY LEGAL AND THAT HAVE BEEN PROVEN SCIENTIFICALLY TO CAUSE NO DAMAGE TO MAN'S HEALTH OR TO HIS ENVIRONMENT. FRANCE HOPED THAT A FRIENDLY COUNTRY, WHICH WAS A WARTIME ALLY, WOULD UNDERSTAND THE MOTIVES OF THIS UNDERTAKING. I MUST TELL YOU
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WITH THE GREATEST CLARITY THAT FRANCE CANNOT GIVE IT UP

THE FRENCHGOVERNMENT IS, FOR ITS PART, READY TO MOVE ON BEYOND THIS QUARREL AND TO RESTORE TRUSTING RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA SO THAT THE VITAL INTERESTS OF FRANCE CAN BE BETTER UNDERSTOOD."

2. ANDERSON, THE NEW AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR ECHOED POMPIDOU'S HOPE FOR IMPROVED FRANCO-AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS, SAYING THAT "IT IS THE CONVICTION OF MY GOVERNMENT -- WHICH I HOPE THE GOF ALSO SHARES -- THAT THE TIES WHICH UNITE US ARE STRONGER THAN THE DIFFERENCES CAUSED BY THE NUCLEAR TESTS."

3. ACCORDINGTO AN AP REPORT, NEW ZEALAND'S ACTING PRIME MINISTER HUGH WATT REJECTED POMPIDOU'S CLAIM THAT FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS ARE LEGAL AND HAVE BEEN SCIENTIFICALLY ESTABLISHED AS NOT HARMING HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

4. COMMENT: THERE IS NOTHING NEW IN POMPIDOU'S REAFFIRMATION OF FRANCE'S INTENTION TO CONTINUE WITH ITS PROGRAM OF NUCLEAR TESTS. WHAT IS NOTEWORTHY IS THE FIRMNESS WITH WHICH POMPIDOU RESTATED FRANCE'S POLICY. DOMESTICALLY, THIS POSTUREMAY BE AN ATTEMPT TO POLISH THE TARNISHED IMAGE OF POMPIDOU AS A DECISIVE LEADER OF FRANCE. INTERNATIONALLY,IT PUTS THE AUSTRALIANS (AND NEW ZEALAND) ON RECORD THAT THE GOF, AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, HAS NOT RETREATED ONEMILLIMETER FROM ITS ADAMANT STAND ON CONTINUED FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING. DECONTROLLED FOLLOWING DEC. 31, 1980.
STONE

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